(d) There was no preference for old connection in comparison to the new connections. However the capacity left un-utilized because of subscriber not ready to take connection was used for converting certain old numbers of strowger exchange to electronic exchange. Preference was given to following categories of old connections for conversion to electronic exchange.

PCO's, essential public utility telephones, Govt. connections with public utility, one telephone out of three telephones working at the same premises, Two telephones out of five telephones working in the same premises and connections on Technical grounds like provision of STD and bad performance etc.

(e) Connections were given from strowger exchange only when the capacity of E-10B exchange was exhausted. These connections were not bulk release, but committed cases or out of turn connections.

(f) There is no geenral complaint of subscriber of non-electronic exchange. However the number of complaints is more in non-electronic exhange than in electronic exchange. It is not correct to say that the subscriber has to dial five call to get one number.

(g) The new policy about connecting certain number from strowger exchange to electronic exhange will be formulated only after the commissioning of 5000 lines eletronic exchange expansion which is expected during 1990-91.

Corruption in Doordarshan

249. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any evidence of corruption in Doordarshan as stated by him in his interview in 'India Week' weekly issue of 30th January, 1990;

(b) whether he has initiated steps to recover lakhs of Rupees from the Doordarshan officials who had taken bribe in clearing serials and tele films and whether any action has been taken against them; and

(c) what is the basis of the information given by him to Press and whether any of these serials have been rejected?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) Allegations/complaints against the officials/staff of Doordarshan are examined in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. The report appearing in 'India Week' of 2-8 February 1990 does not specify any particular officer/staff of Doordarshan. However, some vague and unsubstantiated allegations continue to be made regarding selection of serials. A Screening Committee has therefore, been constituted to review programmes selected for telecast by Doordarshan. The review work is in progress.

Speculations in News Telecast by Doordarshan

250. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan News telecast on the 25th February, 1990 speculated that the Congress (I) will lose power in all the states and whether this is in keeping with the guidelines issued by Government regarding the National News;

(b) whether the Election Commission of India has reprimanded the Ministry regarding the deliberate attempt by Doordarshan officials to pre-judge the election results and indulge in wrong propaganda; and